

Charles Darwin's Notes on his medical history, 20 May 1865

AE 56—57 ---For 25 years extreme spasmodic daily and nightly flatulence: occasional vomiting, on two occasions prolonged during months. Vomiting preceded by shivering, hysterical crying, dizzy sometimes or half faints & copious very palid urine. Now vomiting & every passage of flatulence preceded by ringing of ears, rocking, treading on air and vision-focus & black dots—All fatigues, specially reading, brings on these Head symptoms. ?? nervousness, when E[mma] leaves me.—

[What I vomit intensely acid, slimy, (sometimes bitter) corrodes teeth.]

Doctors puzzled, say suppressed gout—Family gouty. -No organic mischief, Jenner & Brinton.—

Tongue crimson in morning ulcerated—stomach constricted dragging. Feet coldish. —Pulse 58 to 62 or slower & like thread. Appetite good—not thin. Evacuation regular & good. Urine scanty (because do not drink) Often much pinkish sediment when cold—seldom headach or nausea. — Cannot walk abv ½ mile—always tired—conversation or excitement tires me most.— Heavy sleep—bad days.

Eczema (non contact [??] purulent—rash.—

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Always been temperate—now wine comforts much—could not take any formerly. Physic no good—Chalk & Magnesia,--Water cure & Douche—Last time at Malvern could not stand it.

I fancy that when much sickness my stomach is cold—at least Water is very little Warmed.

In Emma's hand: I feel nearly sure that when the air is generated some where ['under' del.] lower down than the stomach & as soon as it regurgitates into the stomach the discomfort comes on.

Does not throw up the food.

Along the margin on the first page: Extreme secretion of saliva with flatulence.

At bottom: Notes apparently to ask Dr Chapman: Instruction—how soon any effect? How long continue treatment?

Emma is CD's wife.